



## Iowa Status

endangered in Iowa; native

The Iowa populations of blue spotted salamanders are separated from its eastern range. Destruction of floodplain forest habitats likely has contributed to loss of other populations.

## Iowa Range

Black Hawk and Linn Counties

## Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

## blue-spotted salamander

*Ambystoma laterale*

Kingdom: Animalia  
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates  
Class: Amphibia  
Order: Caudata  
Family: Ambystomatidae

## Features

This medium-sized salamander (four to 5 1/8 inches long) usually is recognized by whitish-blue markings on the back blending into a blue mottling on the sides of a black background. The larvae (young) are similar to the larvae of smallmouth salamanders, but smallmouths lack blue mottling on the back and they have relatively shorter snouts and toes.

## Natural History

Blue-spotted salamanders breed in early spring in small woodland ponds and ditches. The larvae (young) eat aquatic invertebrates and the adults feed on earthworms and insect larvae. Metamorphosis to adults occurs in July.

## Habitats

temporary water supplies; bottomland forests